AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A smart document comprising a pliable thin portion carrying on ~~its front~~ the smart document's front and/or rear face imprinted visible data, and a thick portion wherein a magnetic strip and/or storage chip (contact or contactless) is merged, the magnetic strip and/or storage chip storing encoded data that is readable by means of a reader,

characterized in that the thick portion that includes the magnetic strip and/or storage chip (contact or contactless) is a planar thick card portion attached to an edge of the thin portion in a manner allowing inclination of the thick card portion relative to the thin portion, the thick card portion being divided into first and second parts on either side of the attachment to the edge of the thin portion, the thick card portion being inclinable between:

- a flat position, in which the first part of the thick card portion overlays an adjacent section of the thin portion, and in which the second part of the thick card portion protrudes beyond the attached edge of the thin portion, and
- inclined positions in which the thick card portion is at a variable angle to the pliable thin portion, and in which the first and second parts of the thick card portion protrude in opposite directions from the attached edge of the thin portion at a variable angle to the adjacent section of the thin portion, wherein the thick card portion and the pliable thin portion remain connected by said attachment edge during and after inclination of the thick card portion relative to the pliable thin portion, allowing the thick card portion and the pliable thin portion to remain as a unitary smart document with a selectively inclinable thick card portion whose first and second parts on either side of the attachment edge remain accessible.

2. (Currently amended) The smart document of claim 1, wherein the thin portion of the document and ~~its attached~~ the smart document's attached thick card portion are both oblong with the long dimension of the thick card portion substantially equal to the short dimension of the thin portion, and the thick card portion is attached along ~~its long direction~~ the thick card portion's long direction to a narrow edge of the thin portion.

3. (Previously presented) The smart document of claim 1, wherein the thick card portion is rectangular with rounded edges.

4. (Previously presented) The smart document of claim 1, wherein the first part of the thick card portion is smaller than the second part.

5. (Previously presented) The smart document of claim 1, wherein the first part of the thick card portion is larger than the second part.

6. (Currently amended) The smart document of claim 1, wherein the thick card portion comprises an extension or tab on one of ~~its edges~~ the smart document's edges that protrudes from ~~its first~~ the smart document's first or second part.

7. (Currently amended) The smart document of claim 6, wherein the extension or tab of the thick card portion extends from ~~its first~~ the smart document's first part and overlays an adjacent section of the thin portion of the document in the flat position.

8. (Currently amended) The smart document of claim 6, wherein the extension or tab of the thick card portion extends from ~~its second~~ the smart document's second part and protrudes beyond and in extension of the thin portion of the document in the flat position.

9. (Previously presented) The smart document of claim 1, wherein the pliable thin portion is made of paper.

10. (Previously presented) The smart document of claim 1, wherein the thick card portion is made of plastic, or a layered composite material such as paper/plastic.

11. (Previously presented) The smart document of claim 1, wherein the pliable thin portion is generally rectangular.

12. (Previously presented) The smart document of claim 1, wherein the pliable thin portion comprises a perforated section remote from the edge to which the thick card portion is attached.

13. (Previously presented) The smart document of claim 1, wherein the thick card portion is attached to the thin portion by glueing, lamination and/or bonding.

14. (Previously presented) The smart document of claim 13, wherein the thin portion is extended by an integral thin layer which is merged with, laminated into or bonded to one face of the second part of the thick card portion.

15. (Previously presented) The smart document of claim 1, wherein the thickness of the attached thick card portion corresponds to that required according to the specifications of standard reader devices for standard credit cards.

16. (Previously presented) The smart document of claim 1, wherein a magnetized strip is merged on the front or rear face of the thick card portion adjacent a long edge thereof.

17. (Previously presented) The smart document of claim 1, wherein a storage chip (contact or contactless) is merged on the front or rear face of the thick card portion and located centrally or slightly off-centre thereon.

18. (Previously presented) The smart document of claim 1, wherein a magnetized strip or storage chip (contact or contactless) is merged in one of the first and second parts of the thick card portion, and the other of the first and second parts of the thick card portion is accessible to be gripped for passing the magnetized strip and/or storage chip (contact or contactless) through a reader when the thick card portion is inclined to the thin portion.

19. (Previously presented) The smart document of claim 1, wherein the magnetic strip and/or storage chip (contact or contactless) contains an image of at least one identification means.

20. (Previously presented) The smart document of claim 1, wherein the encoded data stored in the magnetized strip and/or storage chip (contact or contactless) comprises a signature.

21. (Previously presented) The smart document of claim 1, comprising a plurality of said planar thick card portions inclinably attached to different parts of the thin portion, each thick card portion including a magnetic strip and/or storage chip (contact or contactless).

22. (Previously presented) The smart document of claim 21, comprising two planar thick card portions inclinably mounted at opposite ends of the thin portion.

23. (Previously presented) The smart document of claim 1, whose pliable thin portion comprises a folded pocket.

24. (Previously presented) The smart document of claim 1, which is a bank cheque.

25. (Previously presented) The smart document of claim 1, which is an access pass.

26. (Previously presented) The smart document of claim 11, which is a boarding pass of a transport system.

27. (Previously presented) The smart document of claim 1, which is a multi-purpose document for performing multiple security, identification, access and/or financial functions by means of the data encoded in the magnetic strip and/or storage chip (contact or contactless) and the imprinted visible data on the thin portion.

28. (Previously presented) A process for producing smart documents as claimed in claim 1 which comprises printing visible data on the front and/or back of the thin portion and encoding data in the thick card portion's magnetic strip and/or storage strip (contact or contactless) before and/or after the thick card portion is attached to the thin portion, at least part of the encoded data corresponding to the printed visible data.

29. (Previously presented) A method of using a smart document according to claim 1, wherein the thick card portion of the document is passed through a reader while the thick card portion is attached to the entire thin portion.

30. (Previously presented) A method of using a smart document according to claim 1 to, wherein the thick card portion of the document is passed through a reader after a part of the thin portion has been detached.

31. (Previously presented) A method of authenticating financial transactions, comprising the step of using the smart document according to claim 1, said authenticating comprising processing the data encoded in the magnetic strip and/or storage chip.

32. (Previously presented) A method of controlling access to restricted or private areas, comprising the step of using the smart document according to claim 1, said controlling comprising processing the data encoded in the magnetic strip and/or storage chip 1.

33. (Previously presented) A method of processing information relating to boarding passengers into means for transportation, comprising the step of using the smart document according to claim 1, said method of comprising processing the data encoded in the magnetic strip and/or storage chip and the imprinted visible data on the thin portion.

34. (Previously presented) A method of tracking and/or retrieving passengers baggage, comprising the step of using the smart document according to claim 1, said method comprising processing the data encoded in the magnetic strip and/or storage chip.

35. (Previously presented) A method of performing multiple security, identification, access and/or financial functions, comprising the step of using the smart document according to claim 1, said method comprising processing the data encoded in the magnetic strip and/or storage chip and the imprinted visible data on the thin portion.